

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CPR-01

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R 111747Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6740

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1248

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT BONGO SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9. IMPRESSIVE FORMAL CEREMONY WITH HONOR GUARD OFFERED STRIKING CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT'S INFORMALITY DURING CHAT WHICH FOLLOWED HANDING OVER OF CREDENTIALS IN BRIEF EXCHANGE MARKED BY TOTAL ABSENCE OF SPEECHES ON EITHER SIDE. TONE OF MEETING WAS ENTIRELY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT.

2. NEARLY HALF OF 35-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH BONGO DEALT WITH NIGERIA (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL), WHEN PRESIDENT NOTED THAT LAGOS HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR'S PREVIOUS POST. BALANCE OF CONVERSATION CENTERED ON TWO SUBJECTS: (A) BONGO'S ADVICE TO AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON HIM DIRECTLY FOR INFORMATION RATHER THAN FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF OTHER UNNAMED EMBASSIES WHICH HIRED GABONESE TO FERRET OUT INFORMATION ON THEIR BEHALF (SAME ADVICE GIVEN TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT FAREWELL DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR MCKESSON AND REITERATED IN MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS); AND (B) REAFFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO HAVE AMERICAN COMPANIES COME TO GABON AND CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (POINT MADE WITH EVEN GREATER FERVOR BY FONMIN OKUMBA DURING COURTESY CALL
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PREVIOUS DAY). IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER, BONGO ASKED

SPECIFICALLY ABOUT STATUS OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
PLANS TO OPEN OFFICE IN LIBREVILLE AND GAVE FIRM ORDERS
TO HAVE FINAL AUTHORIZATION EXPEDITED WHEN HE LEARNED
THAT NECESSARY PAPERS HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGNED.

3. PRESIDENT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO REITERATE
HIS HIGH REGARD FOR AMBASSADOR MCKESSON AND EXPRESSED
REGRET AT LATTER'S DECISION TO LEAVE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE
FOR PRIVATE SECTOR.
STEIGMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV01248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750278-0116
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750864/aaaaceug.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
TAGS: PFOR, GB, US, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006